

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

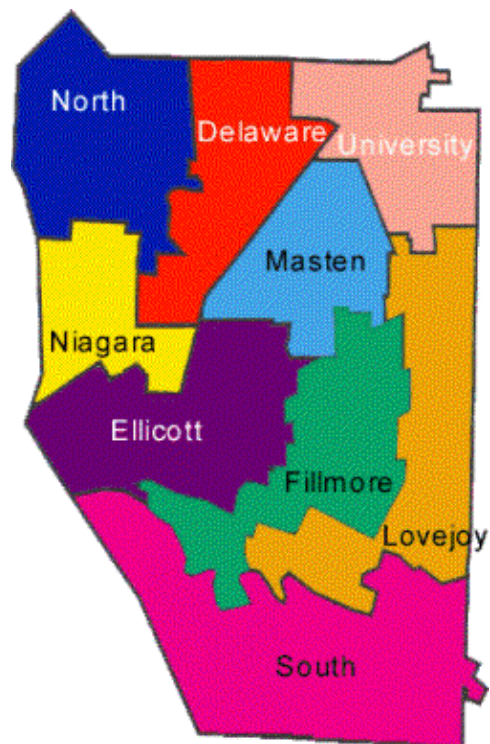
## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Buffalo, New York

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#### Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2001



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Buffalo**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- The City of Buffalo is located in Erie County in the western portion of New York State. Erie County is one of the counties in New York that sits on the border of the United States and Canada.
- Erie County Population (2000): 950,265
- Erie County Race/Ethnicity (2000): 82.2% white; 13.0% African American; 0.6% American Indian/Alaskan Native; 1.5% Asian; 3.3% Hispanic/Latino
- Children living below poverty level, Erie County (1997): 21.5%

### **Politics<sup>2</sup>**

- Mayor: Anthony M. Masiello
- Buffalo Police Commissioner: Rocco J. Diina
- Buffalo Common Council President: James W. Pitts
- Buffalo Common Council Members (District): Mark Coppola (Delaware); Barbara Miller-Williams (Ellicott); Karen Ellington (Fillmore); Richard Fontana (Lovejoy); Antoine Thompson (Masten); Dominic Bonifacio (Niagara); Joe Golombeck (North); Mary Martino (South); Betty Jean Grant (University); Beverly Gray (Councilmember-at-large); Rosemarie Lo Tempio (Councilmember-at-large); Charley Fisher III (Councilmember-at-large)
- Erie County Sheriff: Patrick M. Gallivan

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- The Crime Prevention Unit of the Erie County Sheriff's Office conducted over 890 substance abuse lectures during 1999.<sup>3</sup>
- The following programs are aspects of the Buffalo Weed and Seed Strategy that have helped improve the quality of life in Buffalo's east side:
  - Law enforcement - The main goal for this program is for intensive crackdowns and removal of illegal weapons and drugs from "hot spots" in the target area. Follow-up investigations regarding sources of seized weapons, preventative controls, and close work with designated personnel from the District Attorney's Office to ensure aggressive prosecution of illegal drug and gun cases are also aspects of this program.
  - Neighborhood restoration - This program works to improve the physical infrastructure of the area through the following: graffiti removal; rehabilitation of

- housing and unsafe structures; the expansion of area business and employment opportunities; increased home ownership; and the utilization of advanced telecommunications to link "weeding" and "seeding" efforts in the targeted area.
- Prevention/intervention/treatment - In this program, gun and drug abuse impact programs are conducted to demonstrate the tragic impacts of illegal weapons and drugs on the community. Some other aspects of this program include the following: after school programs at the Safe Haven for youth and residents to complete their education; parent involvement, peer accountability, and sensitivity programs; job fairs, including preparation and "apprenticeship" training programs to reduce unemployment and crime; and preventive social health programs against drug abuse and teenage pregnancy.<sup>4</sup>
  - The Youth and Police Committee implemented Buffalo's first Youth and Police Summit. The initial roundtable discussion opened up lines of communication by allowing area youth and police to openly discuss such issues as curfew, drugs, and weapons in schools. The feedback was tremendous and resulted in additional summits being held at schools in the area. All Buffalo high schools (public and private) are now being encouraged to hold Youth and Police panel discussions.<sup>5</sup>

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 2000, there were 23 homicide arrests in Buffalo. During this same time, there were 2,662 arrests for the use/possession of drugs, and 44 arrests for the sale/manufacture of drugs.<sup>6</sup>

Number of Arrests, Buffalo, 2000

Offense Type	Under Age 18	18 and Over	Total
Homicide	2	21	23
Rape	3	45	48
Robbery	123	325	448
Assault	131	839	970
Burglary	82	407	489
Larceny	128	856	984
Sale/Manufacture of drugs	5	39	44
Use/Possession of drugs	256	2,406	2,662
DWI	2	352	354

- Preliminary data for 2000 show that there were 1,290 adult arrests for felony drug violations and 2,464 adult arrests for misdemeanor drug violations in Erie County.<sup>7</sup>

Number of Adult Arrests, Erie County, 1999-2000\*

	1999	2000	% Change
<b>Total Arrests</b>	27,676	26,589	- 3.9
Total felony	8,380	8,232	- 1.8
Violent	2,596	2,535	- 2.3
Drug	1,564	1,290	- 17.5
Other	4,220	4,407	4.4
Total misdemeanor	19,296	18,357	- 4.9
Drug	2,940	2,464	- 16.2
DWI	2,586	2,667	3.1
Other	13,770	13,226	- 4.0

\*Figures for 2000 are preliminary

### Drugs<sup>8</sup>

- As a major urban area in close proximity to an international border, Buffalo has a special appeal to those wishing to distribute illicit narcotics.

### Enforcement<sup>9</sup>

- As of October 31, 1999, there were 1,176 full-time law enforcement officers working in Buffalo. 958 of these employees were officers, and the remainder were civilians.

### Consequences of Use

- During 1999, there were 106 drug abuse deaths reported by Medical Examiners in the Buffalo – Niagara Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).<sup>10</sup>
- Cocaine was mentioned in 38, or 35.8%, of these drug episodes.<sup>11</sup>

Drug Mentions by Medical Examiners, Selected Drugs, Buffalo MSA, 1997-1999

Drug Type	1997		1998		1999	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Alcohol-in-combination	41	30.1	35	38.5	33	31.1
Cocaine	31	22.8	30	33.0	38	35.8
Heroin/morphine	43	31.6	24	26.4	37	34.9
Marijuana/hashish	13	9.6	17	18.7	12	11.3
Methadone	7	5.1	6	6.6	4	3.8
Methamphetamine/speed	--	--	1	1.1	1	0.9

- From January to June 2000, there were 1,516 Emergency Department (ED) drug episodes in Buffalo. For the entire year 1999, there were 2,711 ED drug episodes.<sup>12</sup>
- Cocaine was mentioned in 461 of these ED drug episodes from January to June 2000.<sup>13</sup>

#### Number of ED Drug Mentions, Buffalo, 1998-1999 and January-June 2000

Drug Type	Full-Year 1998	Full-Year 1999	January-June 2000
Cocaine	1,225	1,119	461
Heroin/morphine	545	525	393
Marijuana/hashish	453	493	271
Methamphetamine/speed	9	7	5

#### Treatment<sup>14</sup>

- The Drug and Substance Abuse Services office in Buffalo operates 5 treatment facilities in the city.
- Drug and Substance Abuse Services provides clinically established outpatient, ambulatory, and accepted drug-free counseling and advocacy services to substance abusing individuals and their families.

#### Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> City of Buffalo Web site: <http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/>

<sup>3</sup> Erie County Sheriff's Office, *Year-End Report: Overview of Activity in 1999*:  
[http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/Year\\_End\\_Report/](http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/Year_End_Report/)

<sup>4</sup> Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Buffalo Police Department Web site: <http://www.police.ci.buffalo.ny.us/>

<sup>6</sup> Buffalo Police Department, arrests statistics for 2000 from the 2000 Annual Report

<sup>7</sup> New York Division of Criminal Justice Services, Criminal Justice Indicators:  
<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/data.htm>

<sup>8</sup> Erie County Sheriff's Office Web site: <http://www.erie.gov/sheriff/S.H.I.E.L.D.2002/SODAA/>

<sup>9</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 1999*, October 2000:  
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/99cius.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1999*, December 2000: [http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/99me\\_annual.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/99me_annual.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mid-Year 2000 Preliminary Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, February 2001:  
[http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/DawnMidYr/00mid\\_year.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/DawnMidYr/00mid_year.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Buffalo Drug and Substance Abuse Services Web site: <http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/deptd.htm#subabuse>

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